United Nations S/2015/57

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 January 2015

Original: English

Letter dated 27 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you a letter from the Special Representative of the Syrian Coalition to the United Nations, dated 26 January 2015, concerning the implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014), on the humanitarian situation in Syria.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 27 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, it is my grave responsibility to draw your attention to the worsening humanitarian situation in Syria and the growing violence perpetrated by Syrian regime forces and foreign terrorist groups.

Since I last wrote to the Security Council in December 2014, conditions in Syria and the region have declined precipitously. A bitter winter, with freezing temperatures and brutal snowstorms, has taken a major toll on Syria's 10.8 million displaced people, causing dozens of deaths inside Syria and in neighbouring countries.

The situation of Syria's 3.2 million refugees is particularly dire. Hundreds of thousands of Syrian families living in refuge are now residing in unsafe living quarters, such as tents, unfinished buildings and other informal dwellings that lack heating, reliable electricity supply or functional toilets. In some countries, such as Lebanon and Jordan, as much as two thirds of the Syrian population is now living below the national poverty line and lacks the resources needed to cope with worsening winter conditions. Tragically, the harsh winter weather has only compounded the suffering of civilians inside Syria, who continue to bear the overwhelming burden of the Assad regime's brutality (see enclosure).

Since the start of the new year, Syrian regime forces have deliberately intensified their aerial assaults on civilian areas, launching thousands of air strikes that have killed hundreds of innocent men, women and children. On 21 January 2015 alone, at least 43 civilians were killed and 150 wounded during aerial attacks by the regime on Syria's Al-Hasakeh Province. Between 21 and 24 January, regime warplanes and helicopters launched more than 504 air strikes in residential neighbourhoods across Rif Dimashq, Homs, Ladhiqiyah, Aleppo, Hama, Quneitra, Deir ez-Zor, Idlib and Dar'a, killing 157 civilians, including 16 children and 13 women, and wounding 500 more.

In Syria's north-eastern area, regime forces have deliberately used the cover of United States-led air strikes on the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) as a means to target and kill those civilians who demand a democratic and inclusive future for their country. These actions violate international humanitarian and international human rights law, including the Additional Protocols I and II to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which explicitly prohibit indiscriminate attacks on civilian objects.

As regime forces have heightened their brutality during this harsh winter, so too have they continued to deny civilians access to food, water and medical care. In direct violation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014) and 2191 (2014), the Syrian regime has maintained under siege eastern Ghouta, Darayya, Al Waer, Hajr Aswad, Tadamun and Yarmouk, where over 400,000 people remain trapped without access to food, water and medical care, and has continued to thwart humanitarian aid agencies' access to hard-to-reach and cross-border areas. As a result of regime intransigence, millions of Syrians along the northern border with Turkey and along the southern border with Jordan remain without access to urgently needed aid and care.

The terror and despair generated by Assad's forces have turned much of Syria's territory into a playground for foreign extremist groups. Since the start of 2015, terrorist groups like ISIL have exploited the distress and insecurity created by the Assad regime's violence to torment and kill innocent civilians in Syria's north-eastern area. They have capitalized on the regime's sectarianism to terrorize Syria's ethnic and religious minority communities, raping, torturing and killing those who do not align themselves with its violent and hateful ideology. In so doing, foreign extremist groups like ISIL have emerged as the chief beneficiaries of the regime's violence.

As the situation in Syria deteriorates, it is critical that members of the Security Council move rapidly to protect innocent civilians from harm. This requires a comprehensive approach that simultaneously tackles foreign terrorist groups and the insecurity that breeds them — the Assad dictatorship, while also laying the basis for moderate, stable and inclusive governance, which can serve as a long-term alternative both to the Assad regime's tyranny and to ISIL terror. An exclusive focus on terrorist groups, rather than on the sectarian tyranny that foments them, will, at best, temporarily degrade ISIL capacities; it will not succeed in destroying ISIL in the long term.

The Syrian National Coalition therefore urges the Security Council to act without delay:

(a) To adopt a comprehensive approach to the crisis in Syria by recognizing the symbiotic relationship between ISIL and Assad and by supporting the ability of moderate opposition groups to meet the needs of the Syrian people;

(b) To protect Syrians in need by supporting the establishment of a safe zone capable of stopping the Syrian regime's illegal aerial attacks on civilian-occupied areas;

(c) To enforce the mandate contained in Security Council resolution 2191 (2014) by pressing United Nations agencies to scale up their assistance across Syria's border with Turkey and Jordan;

(d) To increase humanitarian commitments to the Syrian people so that the millions of Syrians who are living in Syria and neighbouring countries and who are currently suffering from a brutal winter do not suffer needlessly for want of electricity, clothing, food and water.

As we approach the fifth year since Syrians rose up demanding freedom and democracy, the international humanitarian response to Syrians' suffering has not kept pace with our people's growing needs. To the contrary, as the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis has increased, resources dedicated to Syrians have decreased. Throughout the past several months, humanitarian agencies and we, the Syrian National Coalition, have found it increasingly difficult to mobilize the funds needed to provide sufficient food and material assistance to Syrian refugees. The World Food Programme, for example, is still struggling to keep its financial assistance available to refugees beyond January 2015.

Despite such obstacles, the Syrian National Coalition has worked hard to deliver humanitarian relief to hundreds of thousands of Syrians. In the past several weeks, our assistance coordination unit and our interim government have implemented a programme through which $1 million has been allocated to

supporting over 28,000 families in need of heating in Syrian camps and in the refugee camps in Lebanon during the winter months. Such programmes will not be fully successful, however, without greater international support and the generosity of allies.

As we work to redress the humanitarian situation in Syria, we must not forget that the only way to stop the suffering of the Syrian people in the long term is to end the conflict in Syria. That is why we, the Syrian National Coalition, continue to engage constructively with the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria. Over the past several weeks, we have worked to revive and further develop our transition plans in accordance with the framework laid out in the Geneva communiqué. Most recently, our political committee approved a 13-item document laying out a road map for a political solution in Syria and the parameters for resuming the negotiation process that stalled at the Geneva II conference. We are confident that the Security Council remains committed to this goal, and we look forward to working closely with the Council to establish the conditions needed to achieve it.

(*Signed*) Najib **Ghadbian**
Special Representative
of the Syrian National Coalition to the United Nations

Enclosure

Non-compliance by the Syrian regime with Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) and ISIS violations

Paragraph 3: All parties immediately cease attacks against civilians and the indiscriminate employment of weapons in populated areas

- According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, Syrian regime forces killed 1,049 people in December 2014, including no fewer than 105 women, 203 children (amounting to 7 children a day) and 357 rebel fighters; 97 of those killed in December were killed under torture. Women and children comprised 29 per cent of the death toll. The Syrian Network for Human Rights could not collect information on the deaths in areas under siege and cut off by the regime.
- Extremist groups killed no fewer than 333 people in December 2014. Of the 91 civilians killed, 6 were children. In addition, 242 rebel fighters were killed.
- The Syrian Network for Human Rights also documented 56 additional deaths, including of 11 children, 1 woman and 12 rebels. It was unable to verify the side responsible for the deaths.

Violation: massacres in December 2014

- The Syrian Network for Human Rights issued a report documenting at least 40 massacres during the month of December 2014. Of those massacres, 32 were committed by regime forces, 7 by extremist groups and 1 by an unidentified group. Nine of the massacres occurred in Deir ez-Zor, 8 in Rif Dimashq, 6 in Idlib, 5 in Aleppo, 4 in Raqqa, 4 in Dar'a, 3 in Homs and 1 in Hama. In total, 545 people were killed, including 82 children and 41 women. That total represented 22.57 per cent of the victims, indicating a deliberate policy of targeting women and children. Regime forces killed 341 of those killed in December, including 79 children and 40 women, and ISIS killed 199 people, including 1 child and 1 woman.
- The massacres include the following:

  Rif Dimashq

  - On 8 December, 2 regime warplanes targeted the town of Hamouriya, killing 9 people, including 1 woman.
  - On 8 December, regime warplanes carried out two air strikes on Douma city, killing 5 people.
  - On 27 December, regime warplanes carried out an air strike on Douma city, killing 11 people, including 6 children and 2 women.

  Idlib

  - On 15 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at Kafr Takharim city, Idlib, killing 13 people, including 1 woman, and injuring 40 others.
  - On 16 December, regime warplanes carried out multiple air strikes on Muarat alNuman city, Idlib, killing 15 people, including 1 child and 2 women.

- On 16 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at Orient hospital in Kafranbel city, Idlib, killing 11 people.
- On 23 December, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Saraqeb city, killing 6 people.
- On 23 December, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a preparatory school in Sfouhen town, Idlib, killing 5 people and partly destroying the school.
- On 24 December, regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Masran town, Idlib, killing 6 people, including a child.

Aleppo

- On 20 December, regime warplanes launched a missile on Maarat alMaslmiya, Aleppo, killing 7 people, including 1 girl.
- On 23 December, regime forces launched 2 air strikes on Al Bab, Aleppo, killing 6 people, including 1 child.
- On 25 December, regime forces carried out 4 air strikes on Al Bab, Aleppo, killing 37 people, including 7 children and 2 women, and destroying a number of buildings.
- On 25 December, regime forces carried out 3 air strikes on Qbasien town, Aleppo, killing 23 people and destroying residential buildings.
- On 28 December, a car bomb detonated near Qatma village, Aleppo, killing 5 people, including 2 children; it remains unknown which group was behind the bombing.

Raqqa

- On 11 December, clashes between regime forces and civil defence forces on Salmiya Road in Raqqa resulted in the killing of 12 civilians who were en route from alTabaqa to Hama to collect their salaries from Hama.
- On 20 December, regime warplanes targeted a group of civilians gathered in front of alFerdous bakery in Raqqa, killing 11 people, including 3 children and 1 woman, and wounding 60 others.
- On 23 December, regime warplanes targeted Raqqa city, killing 28 people, including 9 children and 5 women, and destroying a whole residential building.
- On 31 December, regime forces launched a missile at the alDariya neighbourhood in Raqqa, killing 5 people, including 2 children.

Dar`a

- On 21 December, regime forces targeted Bosra alSham in Dar`a, killing 6 people, including 4 children and 1 woman.
- On 26 December, regime forces targeted Nawa city with artillery shells, killing 5 people, including 3 children.
- On 27 December, regime forces targeted Ibta town, killing 7 people.

- On 31 December, regime forces dropped a barrel bomb on Dael city, killing 7 people, including 2 children and 3 women.

Deir ez-Zor

- On 12 December, residents of alGraniej village found a mass grave containing 10 dead prisoners from the alShetait tribe executed by ISIS.
- On 15 December, regime forces carried out an air strike on Mohasan town, killing 5 people, including 2 children.
- On 15 December, regime forces targeted Khasham town, killing 6 people, including 3 children and 2 women.
- On 16 December, regime forces launched 2 missiles on Al-Teb Al-Hadith hospital in Al-Mayadin city, killing 10 people, including 4 children and 1 woman, and heavily destroying the hospital.
- On 16 December, residents of alKashkiya village found a mass grave containing the dead bodies of 7 prisoners from the alShetait tribe executed by ISIS.
- On 17 December, residents of Badyat Abu Hamam found a mass grave containing 115 dead bodies from the alShetait tribe executed by ISIS.
- On 20 December, residents of Darnej village found a mass grave containing 28 dead bodies from the alShetait tribe executed by ISIS.
- On 21 December, residents of alGhraniej village found a mass grave containing 20 dead bodies from the alShetait tribe executed by ISIS.
- On 29 December, residents of alGhraniej village found a mass grave containing 12 dead bodies from alShetait tribe executed by ISIS.

Homs

- On 16 December, regime warplanes carried out 6 air strikes on the Al Waer neighbourhood in Homs, killing 37 people, including 7 children and 9 women, destroying a residential tower and damaging multiple houses.
- On 29 December, an ISIS soldier ignited a car bomb in the middle of a gathering of workers at a gas factory in alFarqles, near a regime checkpoint, killing 7 civilian workers.
- On 30 December, regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on the alSenaa neighbourhood in alRastan city, killing 5 people.

Hama

- On 23 December, regime forces targeted Um Zahmak village, killing 3 children and 2 women.

Violation: Syrian regime's indiscriminate use of barrel bombs and aerial munitions

- The Syrian regime continued to indiscriminately drop barrel bombs and aerial munitions during the reporting cycle, killing and injuring many civilians.
- The Syrian regime continues its policy of indiscriminately shelling of vital centres in opposition-controlled areas in order to paralyse civil, economic and

commercial operations and to disrupt the educational, health and food structures in those areas. According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, the regime targeted 28 centres, extremist groups targeted 3 centres and unidentified groups targeted 4 centres in December 2014, including 10 schools, 9 places of worship, 3 markets, 8 medical centres, 7 infrastructure projects and 1 bakery. In December, the Syrian regime attacked the following vital centres:

Schools

- On 1 December, regime forces shelled the yard of Al-Hekma School in the Jub al-Qubba neighbourhood of Old Aleppo, damaging the school.
- On 17 December, regime helicopters dropped 2 barrel bombs on Qasm Ali Jadid School in Madaya town, Rif Dimashq; the school was forced to close owing to heavy damages.
- On 22 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at Hafsa Elementary School in Saraqeb, Idlib, killing 4 children, wounding 10 others and damaging the school.
- On 23 December, regime warplanes launched 2 thermobaric missiles at an elementary school in Douma city, Rif Dimashq, killing 9 civilians, including 5 children, and wounding 15 others.
- On 23 December, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Safouhan Preparatory School in Safouhan, Idlib, killing 5 people and damaging the school.
- On 26 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at Hamouriya School in Hamouriya city, Rif Dimashq, destroying the roof of one of the school's buildings.
- On 28 December, regime warplanes launched a thermobaric shell at the Islamic orphanage's charity school in the Al Waer neighbourhood in Homs, damaging the school.
- On 30 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at Alma Preparatory School in Dar'a, damaging the school.
- On 31 December, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on a school in Al-Zabadani, Rif Dimashq, heavily damaging the school.

Places of worship

- On 10 December, regime forces shelled the areas near Ali ibn Abu Taleb Mosque in the Al-Mashad neighbourhood of Aleppo, killing 3 people and wounding 4 others.
- On 11 December, landmines planted by regime forces inside Al-Shaikh Abdulaziz Abazaid Mosque exploded in Dar'a Al-Mahata, Dar'a city, completely destroying the mosque.
- On 12 December, regime forces heavily shelled Salah al-Deen Mosque in Eastern Mleeha, Dar'a, destroying part of the mosque wall.
- On 17 December, regime warplanes targeted a mosque in Maskna city, Aleppo, wounding 5 people and damaging the mosque.

- On 18 December, regime warplanes targeted Al-Eman Mosque in Zibdeen city, Rif Dimashq, destroying its minaret.
- On 23 December, regime warplanes carried out air strikes on Raqqa city, targeting Al-Huda Mosque and heavily damaging it.
- On 23 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at Al-Iman Mosque in Raqqa city, partly destroying it.
- On 28 December, regime forces launched artillery shells at Yarmouk camp in Damascus, damaging Abdulqader Al-Husseini Mosque.
- On 25 December, regime forces shelled Omar Bin al-Khattab Mosque in Nawa city, Dar'a, killing 5 people, including 3 children, and damaging the mosque.

Markets

- On 24 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at an urban market in Al Mahdoum town, Aleppo, killing 4 people and damaging a number of shops.
- On 25 December, regime helicopters launched 2 missiles at Tareq Halab Street market, where furniture and house tools are sold, and Martou Street market, where food is sold, in Al Bab city, Aleppo, killing 32 people, including 7 children, wounding some 110 others and destroying tens of shops and cars.

Medical centres

- On 5 December, regime forces shut down Al-Amal Hospital in the Al-Khaldiya neighbourhood of Aleppo city and kicked out the medical staff and patients for no known reason.
- On 6 December, regime forces shelled Orient Hospital in Maarat Al-Numan city, Idlib, destroying parts of the hospital's third floor.
- On 7 December, regime warplanes launched 2 missiles on the Martyr Dr. Zyad al-Baqie field hospital, wounding 4 members of the medical team and destroying the hospital.
- On 16 December, regime warplanes targeted Al-Teb Al-Hadith Hospital in Al-Mayadin city, Deir ez-Zor, killing 12 people, including 3 children and 2 women, and destroying the hospital.
- On 16 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at Orient Hospital in Kafranbel, Idlib, killing 3 people and heavily destroying the hospital, which was out of commission for nearly a week.
- On 30 December, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al Shifaa Hospital in Saraqeb, rif Idlib, heavily destroying the hospital and putting it out of commission.

Infrastructure project

- On 14 December, regime forces dropped 2 barrel bombs on the main street in the Al-Firdous neighbourhood of Aleppo city, destroying approximately 20 metres of the neighbourhood's main sewer line.

Bakery

- On 8 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at civilians gathering in front of Al-Firdous bakery in Raqqa city, killing 11 people, including 3 children and 1 woman, and wounding 60 others.

– Extremist groups targeted the following vital centres:

- On 8 December, the Islamic Commission, in coordination with the Nusra Front, cut off water and power supply to Idlib city in order to force regime forces to release women prisoners. The power and water supply resumed on 10 December, after regime forces fulfilled the demands.

- On 23 December, the Nusra Front shut down the power plant in Al-Zurba town, Aleppo, thereby completely cutting off the power supply in an attempt to press regime forces to release approximately 37 female university students who had been arrested on 21 December and who were heading to Aleppo University. On 30 December, the power supply resumed, after regime forces had released 4 students.

– In total, 384 media activists were killed between March 2011 and the end of December 2014. According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, in December the Syrian regime arrested 1 media activist, injured 4 others and killed the following 5 media activists:

- On 8 December, *Orient News* reporters Adel al-Asimi and Yusuf Mahmoud al-Dous and cameraman Salem Abdulrahman al-Khlail were killed by a regime missile targeting their car near the Sheikh Miskeen city border, Dar'a.

- On 10 December, *Al-Jazeera* reporter Mahran Bashir al-Diri was killed near the Sheikh Miskeen city border, in almost the same location where regime forces had killed the above-mentioned *Orient News* media activists a few days earlier.

- On 21 December, media activist Mahmoud Asem al-Msalma was killed by regime warplanes in Sheikh Miskeen city.

Paragraphs 8 and 10: All parties must immediately cease attacks against medical facilities and other civilian objects and medical personnel, and prioritize the fullest possible medical attention for those in need

Violation: Syrian regime attacks on medical buildings and medical staff

– The Syrian Network for Human Rights documented that the regime killed 6 medics in December 2014, including 4 doctors, 3 of whom were killed under torture, and 2 medical team members.

– Those killed by the regime include:

- Ahmad Dibou Abdulqader, a 19-year-old ambulance driver from Maarat al-Arteaq, Aleppo, who died on 30 November 2014 after being hit by shrapnel from regime shelling.

- Abdulhamid Abdulmueen al-Tallawi, a man from Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib, who had been arrested by regime forces nine months earlier and who was tortured to death inside a detention centre on 10 December 2014.

- Mohammad Hussein Saleh al-Sardan, a 17-year-old paramedic from Al-Bolail village, Deir ez-Zor, who was killed by a regime air strike targeting the Al-Teb Al-Hadith hospital, also in Deir ez-Zor, on 16 December 2014.
- Emad Ali Mahna, a 45-year-old physician from Quneitra who was arrested by regime forces in Jermana, Damascus, on 29 June 2013 and whose family was informed that he had been tortured to death inside the forces' Palestine branch on 18 December 2014.
- Hesham Subhi Abdulrahman, a 37-year-old doctor from Banyas, Tartous, and founder of the organization Free Syrian Doctors who was arrested while heading to Damascus on 19 April 2012 and whose family learned that he was executed at Saydnaya prison on 19 December 2014.

– On 7 December, Syrian regime forces shelled the Ziad Al-Bikai hospital in Khan al-Sheikh, western Ghouta, seriously wounding 3 members of the medical staff and damaging approximately 70 per cent of the hospital. It was the fourth time that the hospital had been targeted by regime forces.

– On 16 December, regime forces launched an air strike at the Al-Teb Al-Hadith hospital in Al-Mayadin city, Deir ez-Zor, killing 12 people, including 2 families, and wounding dozens of others. Most of the hospital was destroyed and put out of service.

– On 16 December, regime warplanes launched a missile at Orient Hospital in Kafranbel, Idlib, killing 3 people and heavily destroying the hospital. The hospital was out of commission for nearly a week.

– On 20 December, Issa Agag hospital in Dar'a city was targeted by a car bomb that wounded dozens of people. The explosion happened at night and damaged approximately 70 per cent of the building, including medication stores.

– On 25 December, Mahmoud Alioui, a paramedic at Al Ghab Middle Clinic, was killed by barrel bombs.

– On 30 December, regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb on Al Shifaa hospital in Saraqeb, Idlib, heavily destroying the hospital and putting it out of commission.

– On 31 December, regime forces dropped barrel bombs on Al Radwan hospital in Jassem, Dar'a, killing 2 children and wounding dozens of others and heavily damaging the upper floor of the hospital.

Paragraphs 5-7: All parties must immediately lift sieges of populated areas and promptly allow safe, unhindered and unrestricted delivery of humanitarian aid to populations in need, including by United Nations humanitarian agencies and partners

- The besieged areas remain the most in need. Despite the adoption by the Security Council of resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), few humanitarian organizations and United Nations agencies, if any, have been able to access these areas and distribute life-saving assistance there. Assistance continues to be distributed in border and non-besieged areas. Areas under siege by the regime continue to experience daily bombardment resulting in the massacre of civilians without any media coverage or attention.

Violation: Syrian regime sieges in eastern Ghouta, Darayya, Hajr Aswad and Tadamun

- The Syrian regime continues its complete siege of eastern Ghouta, Darayya, Hajr Aswad and Tadamun. The regime is preventing the movement in or out of those besieged areas of civilians and of life-saving aid like food, medicine, baby milk, medical goods and fuel. The regime is preventing agencies and humanitarian organizations from entering those areas, which it continues to bombard on a daily basis using a wide array of munitions, including missiles and barrel bombs.

- Owing to the siege, health conditions have worsened in the besieged areas, resulting in the spread of disease and illness, particularly liver infection, typhoid fever, measles and tuberculosis. As the regime is preventing medical aid from reaching those areas, residents' immune systems have weakened at alarming rates.

- The besieged areas are under daily bombardment. The Syrian regime drops barrel bombs, artillery shells and mortar shells on gathering areas and residential locations, resulting in high numbers of injuries. Owing to the Syrian regime's siege, much of the medical aid needed to treat the injured is not available, resulting in many of the injured dying.

- There has been a significant decrease in food items in the besieged areas, particularly infant milk. As a result, the price of infant milk has increased approximately tenfold, making it unattainable for many families. This has resulted in severe malnutrition among infants.

- Mukhayim al-Wafideen, the only entry and exit point to eastern Ghouta, is closed to all civilians, preventing them from leaving the area even to obtain daily nourishment. If residents attempt to leave besieged eastern Ghouta, Syrian regime snipers directly target them, leading each month to dozens of civilian deaths.

- As a result of the closing of the Mukhayim al-Wafideen crossing point, only a limited number of traders can enter or exit eastern Ghouta, causing food prices to quadruple or quintuple. For example, while the price of a kilogram of sugar is 50 Syrian pounds in Damascus, it is 250 pounds in eastern Ghouta. After the regime closed the Mukhayim al-Wafideen crossing point, the price increased to approximately 2,500 Syrian pounds.

Violation: Syrian regime siege on the Al Waer neighbourhood of Homs

– The Syrian regime continues to besiege the Al Waer neighbourhood, which lies west of Homs city and is home to 15,000 displaced families. The neighbourhood is surrounded by regime-controlled military checkpoints. Since it first laid siege to the neighbourhood in 2013, the regime has allowed the entry of only a very limited amount of humanitarian assistance.

Paragraph 11: All parties must immediately end arbitrary detention and torture of civilians in Syria, notably in prisons and detention facilities, as well as the kidnappings, abductions and forced disappearances, and must immediately release all arbitrarily detained persons

– According to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, in December 2014 regime forces arbitrarily arrested 185 individuals, including 9 women, and engaged in 133 raids and screenings. Extremist forces arbitrarily arrested 112 individuals, including 7 women and 3 children, and engaged in 42 raids and screenings. During that same month, 17 individuals were kidnapped by regime forces and 4 were kidnapped by extremist groups.

– Also according to the Syrian Network for Human Rights, 105 victims died under torture in official and unofficial detention centres in Syria in December 2014. Regime forces killed 104 individuals and Kurdish forces killed 1. Hama had the highest number of victims, with a total of 18, while Idlib had 14, Dar'a had 13, Aleppo had 11, Rif Dimashq had 8, Ladhiqiyah had 7, Homs had 5, Deir ez-Zor had 3, Raqqa had 3, Quneitra had 3, Hasakeh had 2, Tartous had 2 and Sweida had 1. Among those killed under torture were:

  - Abdulhamid Abdulmueen al-Tallawi, a doctor from Khan Sheikhoun city who had been arrested by regime forces nine months earlier and whose family was informed that he was tortured to death inside a regime detention centre on 10 December.

  - Emad Ali Mahna, a 45-year-old doctor from Qunietra who was arrested by regime forces in Jeramana, Damascus, on 29 June 2013 and whose family was informed that he was tortured to death inside the forces' Palestine branch on 18 December 2014.

  - Hesham Subhi Abdurrahman, a 37-year-old doctor from Banyas, Tartous, and founder of the organization Free Syrian Doctors who was arrested on 19 April 2012 and whose family learned that he was executed in Saydnaya prison on 19 December 2014.

  - Hassan Shlash al-Samara, a 74-year-old man arrested by regime forces on 9 December 2014 who was tortured to death in a regime detention centre on 21 December 2014.

  - Ahmad Eidou al-Yousef and his brother Nasr, from Deir al-Sharqi village, Idlib, who had been arrested in Rif Dimashq approximately a year earlier and were tortured to death by the regime; their mother received their identification documents from a regime security branch on 3 December 2014.

  - Khaled Qassas and his two brothers, Rajab and Ahmed, from Sahat al-Melh, Aleppo city, who had been arrested by regime forces in Ras al-Basit,

Ladhiqiyah, approximately 16 months earlier and whose families were informed that they were tortured to death on 12 December 2014.

Paragraph 14: Condemns terrorist attacks and calls upon all parties to combat and defeat terrorist organizations and individuals

- The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) issued new regulations making life in Raqqa more difficult. Men under 25 years of age are not allowed to travel, especially not towards regime-controlled areas. Women are not allowed to travel to regime-controlled areas irrespective of their age.

- The ISIL Al-Hisbah forces (religious/morality police), composed mostly of non-Syrians, have implemented strict standards on residents in ISIL-controlled territory. In the village of Qahtaniya in western Raqqa, Al-Hisbah forces arrested a 15-year-old girl whose face was uncovered and punished her father and her brothers by fining them and striking them with 25 lashes each. The girl was ordered to wear a face covering.

- ISIL has prevented members of Deir ez-Zor's local council from operating and has arrested a few of its members. The rest of the council's members stopped working for fear of arrest. Many members in the education and health offices no longer go to their offices for fear of arrest and prosecution.

- During the reporting period, ISIS charged a man with corruption and with "being a bandit" and brutally cut off his limbs in the village of alShaddadi in Hasakeh Province.

- Al-Hisbah sentenced multiple traders in Sireen city, Aleppo, to 50 lashes for selling cigarettes.

- ISIL stoned a young man and woman to death in the village of Abu Qalqal, Aleppo, for alleged adultery.

- ISIL publicly cut the hand of a young man in Minbaj city, Aleppo, for alleged theft.